WITH THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (R. A. M. C.) AT THE FRONT

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With the Royal army medical corps (R. A. M. C.) at the front by Evelyn Charles Vivian

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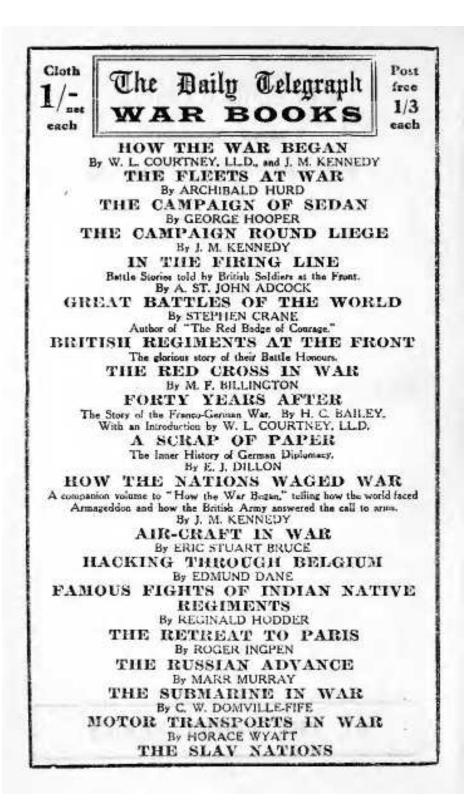
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WITH THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (R. A. M. C.) AT THE FRONT

AT THE FRONT SERIES



WITH THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (R. A. M. C.) AT THE FRONT

BY

E. CHARLES VIVIAN

AUTHOR OF "THE BRITISH ARMY FROM WITHIN " ETC.

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CHAPTER I

UMEV. DI CALIFORNIA

THE CORPS-ITS COMPOSITION AND DUTIES

To the average British civilian, the British Army, either in peace or war, is one whole organisation; one soldier is exactly like another soldier to the man in the street, for the volunteer system of service, peculiar to British rule as far as European civilisation is concerned, has set the Army quite apart from civilian life and ways of thought. To-day, with the fate of civilisation itself hanging on the doings of armies, there are men in Britain who do not know the difference between a squad and a squadron, between a combatant and a non-combatant unit.

Most people, however, know that the Royal Army Medical Corps is a non-

8 The Army Medical Corps

combatant unit, made up of officers and men whose efforts are devoted solely to the care of the sick and wounded of the British Army—and of such of its opponents as may fall into British hands and need medical care. To quote the strength of any department of the Army at the present time would be impossible, owing to the augmentation which war has imposed on ali branches and all departments. We must take as a working base the latest available figures, which give the total strength of officers and men of the R. A. M. C. on the 1st of October, 1913, as 4,798.

The whole medical department of the Army is administered by the Director-General of the Army Medical Services, under the Adjutant-General of the Army. The officers and men are formed into a corps designated the Royal Army Medical Corps, which replaced the old and not too well organised Army Hospital Corps of Crimean and even later days. The officers and men of the corps are charged with all duties connected with the care of the sick and wounded in peace and war, and the